OCT 1 3 2004 CF

Docket No. 520.43433X00/NT1393US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Ako SHOSE et al.

Serial No.

10/765,836

Filed

29 January 2004

For

SURGICAL OPERATION ASSISTANCE SYSTEM

AND SURGICAL OPERATION ASSISTING METHOD

Art Unit

3737 (Filing Receipt)

Examiner

Unassigned

Conf. No.

2345

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
POB 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 13 October 2003

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, Applicant hereby submits the attached information for consideration by the Office under 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98 and for printing on the face of any patent issuing hereon, as listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449.

Also attached is a copy of an European Search Report (ESR) issued

13 July 2004 in a foreign application corresponding to the subject US application, as well as copies of all of the references cited therein. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(e), Applicant states that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was first cited in the attached ESR, which was mailed not more than three (3) months prior to the filing date of this IDS.

No separate concise explanation of relevance is submitted for each item of

information not in the English language In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(3)

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because, as indicated in MPEP §III609A(3), where the information listed is not in the English language but was cited in a Search Report by a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance can be satisfied by submitting an English-language version of the Search Report which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign Office, which may be an explanation of that portion of the reference that is particularly relevant and to which claims it applies, or merely an "X", "Y", or "A" indication on the Search Report. Therefore, the attached ESR satisfies the requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(3)(i).

This IDS is being filed prior to mailing of a first Action on the merits in the above-identified application under 37 CFR §1.97(b). In the event that the filing date of this IDS is concurrent with the mailing date of a first Action on the merits in this case, Applicant has submitted the statement under 37 CFR §1.97(e), and therefore, the requirements for entry of this IDS under 37 CFR §1.97(c) also are complete, and entry and consideration of the attached information are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Skwierawski

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Attachments: PTO-1449 ESR/6 Refs.

Form PTO-1449 ATTY. DKT. NO. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE 520.43433X00 **APPLICANT** FORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Ako SHOSE et al. **FILING DATE** (Use several sheets if necessary) 29 January 2004 **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Ex. Initial	Doc. No.	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date
AA	6,468,202 B1	10/22/2002	Irion <i>et al.</i>			
AB	5,836,869 A	11/17/1998	Kudo et al.			
AC	6,033,415 A	03/07/2000	Mittelstadt et al.			
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SERIAL NO.

10/765,836

GROUP

3737

U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

	Application Number	Name	Publication Date
Al	2001/0040991 A1	Asano et al.	11/14/2001
AJ			
AK			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

 	Doc. No.	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation/Abstract	
						Yes	No
AM	194 41 500 A1	05/15/1997	DE			Search Report	
AN	0 391 376 A1	10/10/1990	EP				
AO							
AP							
AQ							

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Examiner	Date Considered	
AT		
AS		
AR	·	